

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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Chief, WHD

17 June 1954

(JMWATERFALL)

Communist Activities  
~~X~~ Partido Comunista Hondureño

References: [ 1, [ 2, [ 11, [ 15, [ 17

1. Pursuant to the request of the First Secretary of the Embassy, a chronological summary of the activities of the Partido Comunista Hondureño as reported by Identity A of HHT-A-Q29 was compiled. Attached is a copy of the summary which was prepared, based primarily upon the information set forth in references.

Earl G. Knox

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CHRONOLOGY OF PCH ACTIVITIES AS REPORTED BY SOURCE

17 June -  
27 June 1953.

Group of Honduran Communists, including Rigoberto PADILLA, Antonio FAJARDO and Alberto GARCIA Bulnes, in Guatemala City where they conferred with the "Bureau" of Partido Comunista Guatemalteco and with a Honduran Marxist group in Guatemala City composed of Ventura RAMOS, Ramon AMAYA Amador, Ernesto FIALLOS Wilfredo CHAVARRIA, Nicola URBINA, Jacinto LOZANO and Jose Manuel ZUNIGA. All members of Marxist group receiving intensive night classes in syndicalism. Visiting Honduran Communists were taken on tours and given lectures.

Situation of PCH, as outlined to Guatemalan Communist at that time, was: Two groups in Tegucigalpa with seventeen members and twelve sympathizers, one group in Puerto Cortes with five members and two sympathizers, one group in La Lima with four members, two groups in La Ceiba with three members and one group in Tela with four members.

Honduran Communists were given recommendations by Bureau of Partido Comunista Guatemalteco on the action they should take with regard to a) Marxist study groups, the Partido Democratico Revolucionario Hondureño (PDRH) and the Comité Coordinador Obrero and the Voz Obrera.

7 & 8 April 1954

Rigoberto PADILLA attended meeting with Alejandro Severo AGUIRRE and Max SALAZAR, both members of Executive Bureau of Partido General Guatemalteco del Trabajo, in San Salvador, at which time plans were made for a general strike in Honduras.

30 April 1954.

At meeting in Puerto Cortes, attended by Gustavo ANDARA Bulnes and Irene ALVARADO from Tegucigalpa, final preparations made for general strike.

May 1954.

After general strike organized, following Executive Committee of the Strike created: Rigoberto PADILLA, Dionisio BEJARANO, Francisco CARDONA, Hernan HERRERA Villatoro, Francisco FUNES, Efraim GIMAY, Juan BARRIO Jose LOPEZ Oviedo, Julio C. RIVERA, Max SALAZAR, Mario SILVA Jonama and Ventura RAMOS, members of the Partido Guatemalteco to serve as advisors to above Executive Committee.

17 May 1954.

SALAZAR, Mario SILVA Jonama and Ventura RAMOS returned to Guatemala.

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- 17 May 1954. Executive Bureau of the PCH organized as follows: Secretary General, Dionisio BEJARANO. Secretary of Organization, Rigoberto PADILLA. Secretary of Affiliation, Julio C. RIVERA. Secretary of Statistics, Francisco RIOS. Secretary of Conflicts, José LOPEZ Oviedo. Secretary of Records and Correspondence, J. B. CANALES. Secretary of Culture, César Augusto CO
- 17 May 1954. PCH leaders planned organization of workers into labor unions and to make application to Honduran Government that Communist Party be declared legal. They resolved that general strike would continue, avoiding any settlement, until Communists had time to carry out their plans.
- 18 May 1954. Five arms of Czech manufacture received in El Progreso from Guatemala by Communists.
- 18 May 1954. Communists in El Progreso learned that wife of Mario SOSA, Chief of the Departamento Agrario Nacional in Guatemala was in Tegucigalpa with sum of ten thousand lempiras for the strike with instructions to deliver money to Communists Gustavo ANDARA Bulnes or to Alberto GARCIA Bulnes or as a last resort to Jose PINEDA Gomez. Communists in El Progreso also learned that WFTU was sending 25,000 dollars by special emissary who would travel from Mexico via Guatemala and Macuelizo, Honduras.
- 20 May 1954. Alberto GARCIA Bulnes sent by Communists in El Progreso to Tegucigalpa for purpose of editing propaganda material, and to return to El Progreso with Jose Pin Gomez who would serve as legal advisor to Strike Committee.
- 24 May 1954. When Jose PINEDA Gomez attempted to travel to El Progreso, he was prevented from travelling by agent of Honduran Government. Alberto GARCIA Bulnes travelled to El Progreso, receiving at the airport the money which Jose PINEDA Gomez was carrying and which had been received from the wife of Mario SOSA. Jose PINEDA Gomez travelled to El Progreso a few days later by truck to replace Francisco MILLA Bermudez as legal advisor to the strikers.

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27 May 1954.

Central Committee of the PCH passed resolutions, pointing out that recent events made it impossible for the moment to carry out their plans as anticipated, and they should concentrate upon political training of members; covert infiltration into student, professional, teachers and labor organizations; collection of dues, and propaganda designed to unmask imperialistic aims of U.S. and to educate the workers so they will seek the PCH as the party which will give them their "freedom". Following temporary secretaries appointed in view of action by authorities against some Communists: Trinidad SANTOS Miralda, Manuel Antonio SIERRA, Julio OVIEDO Mendoza, Juan B. CANALES, Modesto CORTES, Ruben PORTILLO, Efrain GARAY and Cristobal HERRERA. Was stated that following are members of "Bureau of PCH": Cesar A. Coto, Dionisio BEJARANO, Rigoberto PADILLA, Julio C. RIVERA, Francisco CARDONA and Gustavo ANDARA Bulnes.

31 May 1954.

Cesar Augusto COTO and Jose PINEDA Gomez appeared for first time with Central Strike Committee in meetings with Mediating Commission and United Fruit Company officials, and refused outright to sign oral agreements previously reached.

31 May 1954.

Cesar Augusto COTO, Manuel SIERRA Figueroa, Ruben PORTILLO Araujo and Modesto RUBIO Cortes met with La Lima Strike Committee. Failed to reach agreement when COTO proposed the immediate organization of all workers on North Coast into labor unions which would be affiliated with the PCH. With consent of striker in La Lima under direction of El Manuel de J. VALENCIA, COTO, SIERRA, PORTILLO and RUBIO detained turned over to authorities for arrest.

9 June 1954.

Central Strike Committee which was organized on 6 June 1954 free of Communist influence. Communist control of the strike movement has been broken. Dionisio BEJARANO has fled to Guatemala. Ventura RAMOS had already gone to Guatemala. Jose PINEDA Gomez in hiding in El Progreso. Rigoberto PADILLA in hiding. J. Antonio FAJARDO and Juan B. CANALES in jail in Puerto Cortes. Cesar Augusto COTO and Francisco CARDONA in jail in Tegucigalpa.

SOURCE COMMENT: There is no documentary evidence to show instruction received by Honduran Communists for handling the strike. While there were advisors from Guatemala, Honduran Communists such as Rigoberto PADILLA who had been trained behind the Iron Curtain and in Guatemala were the principal organizers and leaders of the strike. During the latter part of May 1954, there were constant rumors that an individual

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known only as "Don Juan" was the brains behind the Communists in El Progreso. This individual has been identified as Manuel ZUNIGA, a Honduran, who entered Honduras from Guatemala under an assumed name.

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